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6. The DDR government has also taken steps to insure that the new congress will be homogeneous. It has been decreed that after 15 October there will be no more majority votes in the Soviet Zone parliaments; all decisions will be made unanimously. Any possible disagreements will be ironed out in committee meetings beforehand.

7. Selection of candidates for the election 25X1

National Front Organization and Activities.

8. The National Front is organizationally divided into six-state committees, (including the City of Berlin), 160 Kreis committees, and 1400 local committees. At the head of the organization is a National Council, consisting of 89 members (1). Superseding the council in authority is a seven-man secretariat. In all echelons, the seats are distributed among the recognized political parties and the so-called mass organizations according to a prearranged key, but the leadership and decisive membership is, in each case, exclusively in the hands of the SED.
9. The LDP has been allotted eight seats in the National Council (2); they are occupied by:

Dr. Karl Hamann, Berlin, President of the LDP in the Soviet Zone.
 Frau Dr. Wilhelmine Schirmer-Pröscher, Berlin, also a functionary in the DFB (German Women's League, and SED front organization) and a member of the People's Congress (Soviet Zone Legislature).
 Frau Rodel, Potsdam
 Richter, Schwerin
 Frau Dr. Bruch, Dresden
 Koncack, city councilor and head of the economic office of the City of Dresden.
 Dr. Hans Loch, Erfurt, Minister of Finance of the DDR.
 Kamps, Halle, member of the cabinet in Saxony-Anhalt.

Until recently Professor Dr. Hermann Kastner, one-time holder of various minister portfolios in Saxony, was chairman of the council. When he was eliminated from the political field in the East Zone, Dr. Hamann took his place and was in turn succeeded in his former position by Guenter Stempel, former general secretary of the secretariat of the National Front. A few days after assumption of his new office, Stempel was arrested (3).

10. The state Secretariats of the National Front are no longer run by three co-equal members. It was found that the arrangement encouraged mutual shirking of responsibility and "passing the buck". In the future, one chairman will be appointed as chief. He is to carry all responsibility and be selected according to his ability rather than his party membership.
11. The training school at Bantikow, Mecklenburg, seems to function well. The "Professors" lecture on one subject for about two and a half hours. Thereafter the students are divided into prearranged groups of ten and continue discussion of the topic under the guidance of a seminar instructor. The latter are, of course, excellently trained SED men. Any one found wanting in ability or enthusiasm during these discussion periods is expelled from the school. The method results in a very high caliber of graduates.

The National Congress

12. a. The National Front was to conduct its first National Congress starting 25 August 1950, in the Seelenbinder hall in Berlin. The Congress was to consist of 3000 delegates, 1200 of which were to come from the Soviet Zone and 1800 from Western Germany (4). It was planned to maintain this body as an "all-German representation" alongside the regular legislatures. It is to be called into session from time to time to rouse the political consciousness of the people and to give them a chance to express their opinions.

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b. The Soviet Zone representation was based on a special distribution key according to organizational membership and domicile [redacted]. All parties and mass organizations were requested to send delegates. The LDP was especially urged to send industrialists, business men, craftsmen, professors, and especially ministers to the congress.

c. Of the West German delegates, only 10 percent were to be acknowledged members of the KPD, in order to impress the population of West Germany with the fact that the congress is not under Communist tutelage.

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13. Fritz Otto, one of the principal functionaries of the National Front, recently stated that propaganda work in West Berlin and Western Germany would have to be intensified. Individual canvassing would have to be replaced by group recruiting. The approach will have to be a great deal better than that of the KPD. The "sledge-hammer" method has failed completely. [redacted]

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14. Hans Seigewasser, deputy chief of the National Front, also referred to the coming propaganda campaign in West Germany. He spoke principally of the ideological work to be done, but let it be known that the powers that be would not hesitate to order "revolutionary measures" to reach their goal, if need be.

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15. [redacted]

16. Wilhelm Koenen, chairman of the National Front, has published six propaganda leaflets in the last few weeks:

- a. The Background to the American War-threat, 37 pages.
- b. Hiroshima Warning, 50 pages, many illustrations.
- c. The Law of Labor, 36 pages.
- d. The Dulwark of the Nation (material for speakers), 32 pages.
- e. The Powers of Peace are Stronger, 16 pages, illustrated.
- f. For the Prohibition of Atomic Weapons, Ten Objections, Ten Answers, 4 pages, (collection of signatures for the Stockholm Appeal).

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[redacted] Comments:

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(1) An earlier report [redacted] fixes the number of council members at 65.

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(2) According to HICOG report cited above, the LDP was allotted nine seats.

(3) The described change of personnel so closely resembles a personnel change in the LDP party organization, involving the same personalities, offices and functions, that the possibility of a confusion by source between the two cannot be disregarded.

(4) The report states 3000 "delegates" and divides them 1200 and 1800. The distribution key, however, accounts for 1500 delegates and 1200 "guests" from the DDR in addition to 1800 "West Germans".

(5) The Deutsche Notenbank is the institution responsible for the issuance of DDR currency.

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